



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

July 28, 2004

**H.R. 2449  
Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission Act**

*As ordered reported by House Committee on Government Reform  
on July 21, 2004*

H.R. 2449 would require the Department of the Interior (DOI) to establish a commission to develop and plan activities to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War during the 2011-2015 period. The commission, consisting of 25 members, would have about 11 years to report on its finding and recommendations. Members would serve without pay but would be reimbursed for travel expenses. In addition, the commission could hire staff or use personnel from other federal agencies. The commission would terminate 90 days after submitting its final report. H.R. 2449 would direct DOI to perform an annual audit of the commission.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$200,000 annually from 2005 through 2016 for administrative expenses of the commission and a total of \$3.5 million over that period for the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide grants for activities related to the sesquicentennial.

Assuming the appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the commission would spend about \$500,000 annually over the 2005-2016 period. Because H.R. 2449 would authorize the commission to accept and use gifts, the legislation could affect revenues and direct spending. CBO estimates, however, that any revenues from contributions and subsequent direct spending would be less than \$500,000 annually and would offset each other over the 11 years of the commission's activities.

H.R. 2449 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act; to the extent that the grants are awarded to public institutions, the bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Matthew Pickford (for federal costs), and Sarah Puro (for the state and local impact). This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.